

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00868 080911Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /130 W
-----110839 080928Z /14

O R 080630Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3350
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0868

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS STATUSUGLNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PP, XU
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY (SPRFA)

REF: A) STATE 138676 B) WELLINGTON 02909

1. I TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE ABOUT FISHERIES
MATTERS THIS MORNING AND ONCE AGAIN HE WAS DISINCLINED TO
GET INTO A DISCUSSION. WHEN I BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF
THE SUVA CONFERENCE HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW IT WAS
GETTING ALONG, BUT WAS THINKING HE MIGHT TELEPHONE BEN
SABUMEI TO ASK. I TOLD HIM THE USG VERY MUCH HOPED THAT
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AN ACCOMMODATION COULD BE REACHED IN SUVA. HE SMILED
FAINTLY AND NODDED. I SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ALL
PACIFIC NATIONS THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED AT SUVA.
HE WAS SILENT. I REFERRED TO HIS COMMENTS TO ME ABOUT
THE IMPORTANCE OF PNG'S SOVEREIGNTY AT MY COCKTAIL PARTY
LAST WEEK AND SAID I WANTED TO ASSURE HIM THAT THE USG
HAD THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR PNG'S SOVEREIGNTY. HE

SMILED FAINTLY AND NODDED. I POINTED OUT THAT INSOFAR AS US TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC WERE CONCERNED, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPRFA WOULD AFFECT US SOVEREIGNTY JUST AS IT AFFECTED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PNG. HE SMILED FAINTLY AND NODDED.

2. I RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE "VOYAGEUR" SAYING I HAD INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS IN PNG WATERS AND WASHINGTON HAD INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT ITS LICENSE. I SAID I HOPED VERY MUCH THAT A LICENSE WOULD BE ISSUED. I POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE VERY UNPLEASANT FOR ALL CONCERNED IF IT WERE DENIED A LICENSE AND THEN BEGAN TO FISH WITHOUT ONE. (A DEFENCE FORCE PATROL BOAT RECENTLY PULLED IN A JAPANESE TUNA BOAT WHICH THEN PRODUCED A LICENSE IN COURT AND WAS DISMISSED. THIS SUGGESTS A WORRISOME EAGERNESS ON THE PART OF THE DF TO PROTECT PNG WATERS.) OLEWALE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE STATUS OF A LICENSE FOR THE "VOYAGEUR" BUT WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT A BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: THE DISINCLINATION OF THE PNG TOP LEADERSHIP TO DISCUSS THE FISHERIES AGENCY WITH AMERICANS IS EXASPERATING, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS US PARTICIPATION WITH OTHERS. BEFORE THE FISHERIES
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GROUP ARRIVED I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER I HOPED HE COULD SEE THEM AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE AN EXPLANATION OF US FISHERIES POLICY FROM A VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE GROUP. HIS REACTION SUGGESTED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE THEM, BUT WHEN I PRESSED, HE AGREED. HOWEVER, WHEN WE TRIED TO SET UP THE APPOINTMENT WE WERE TOLD HE WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN THE DAYS THE FISHERIES GROUP WAS HERE. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (ALSO MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY) ORIGINALLY REFUSED TO SEE THE FISHERIES GROUP UNTIL I INTERVENED AND PUT THE PRESSURE ON HIM. AT THE MEETING HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD LISTEN BUT NOT DISCUSS. HE BECAME SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS AND MADE A FEW COMMENTS, BUT CLEARLY HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO DO SO. IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS THE GPNG LEADERSHIP WANTS TO TAKE REFUGE BEHIND THEIR EXPATRIATE ADVISORS, WHO ARE ONLY TOO EAGER TO DEBATE WITH US.

4. OLEWALE'S COMMENT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE SUVA CONFERENCE IS GOING MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CORRECT. WE KNOW THAT DABB IS FULLY INFORMED (AND DISCOURAGED) ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT

DABB IS AT HOME WITH A SPRAINED ANKLE AND MAY NOT BE
KEEPING OLEWALE INFORMED. DABB IS NO LONGER SAYING THAT
GPNG WILL NOT JOIN THE SPRFA UNLESS IT FOLLOWS THE PNG
PATTERN. INSTEAD HE IS NOW SAYING THAT THE GPNG WILL
HAVE TO MAKE A POLITICAL DECISION ON WHAT IT WILL DO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0512
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780681/aaaacrpv.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6421408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 138676, 78 WELLINGTON 2909
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2437392
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY (SPRFA)
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PORG, PP, XU, SPRFA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6421408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014